Message Text

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R 292209Z MAR 77 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST INFO USDEL MTN GENEVA USMISSION NATO

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E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:EEWT, ETRD, GATT, HU

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE HUNGARIAN MFN INITIATIVE

REF: MTN GENEVA 2280

1. IF, AS NYERGES SAYS (REFTEL), THE GOH ASKS FOR BILAT-ERAL ECONOMIC NEGOTIATIONS AIMED AT ESTABLISHING MFN RE-LATIONS DURING CHARGE'S MEETING ON MARCH 31 WITH NAGY TO REVIEW CSCE IMPLEMENTATION, CHARGE SHOULD STATE THAT HE WILL REPORT VIEWS EXPRESSED AND WILL SEEK INSTRUCTIONS. CONFIDENTIAL

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2. AS THE EMBASSY IS AWARE, THERE HAVE BEEN OTHER INDICATIONS THAT THE HUNGARIANS ARE CONSIDERING A BILATERAL APPROACH TO MFN, PRESUMABLY THROUGH A WAIVER UNDER SECTION 402 (C) OF THE TRADE ACT. NYERGES' COMMENTS GIVE AN ECONOMIC RATIONALE FOR SUCH AN APPROACH, BUT IT IS NOT CLEAR THAT HE FULLY UNDERSTANDS THE REQUIREMENTS OF SEC-

TION 402.

3. MOST RECENT FEELER HERE CAME MARCH 24 WHEN HUNGARIAN TV CORRESPONDENT, DENES POLGAR, TOLD DEPARTMENT OFFICER THAT HUNGARY WOULD BE WILLING TO ACCEPT MFN IF IT WERE OFFERED "WITHOUT CONDITIONS" EVEN IF MFN WAS NOT AVAILABLE TO THE SOVIETS. HE SAID HE HAD CHECKED CAREFULLY

ON THE HUNGARIAN POLICY BEFORE LEAVING BUDAPEST THE PREVIOUS WEEK.

4. IN VIEW OF THE SENSITIVITY OF THIS ISSUE, THE POSSI-BILITY OF A BILATERAL APPROACH SHOULD BE CLOSELY HELD.5. FOR US MISSION NATO: REFTEL BEING REPEATED BY DEPARTMENT TO YOU FOR ATTENTION OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN.

CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

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